

from the New York Medical Journal and Medical Record for December 5, 1923.

Pottenger, F. M., Prognosis in Tuberculosis. Reprinted from Chicago Medical Recorder, January, 1921.

Palpation, in the Outlining of Organs and Determining Pathological Conditions Causing Different Degrees of Density in the Same Organ: Light Touch Palpation. Reprinted from Annals of Clinical Medicine, Vol. I, No. 5, March, 1923.

The Relationship of the Ion Content of the Cell to Symptoms of Disease, With Special Reference to Calcium and Its Therapeutic Application. Reprinted from Annals of Clinical Medicine, Vol. II, No. 3, November, 1923.

Stevens, William E., Urology in Women. Reprinted from The Journal of the American Medical Association, December 8, 1923, Vol. 81, pp. 1917-1923.

Ward, E. D.  
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Wesson, Miley B., Fasciae of the Urogenital Triangle. Reprinted from the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dec. 15, 1923, Vol. 81, pp. 2024-2029.

Wolfe, Samuel, Mental Instability in Ex-Service Men—How Acquired; How Remedied. Reprinted from The Military Surgeon, July, 1922.

**A New Colorimetric Method for the Determination of Urea with Urease**—The colorimetric method for the determination of urea in blood serum and other similar materials reported in 1920 by Nakasima and Maruoka, is worked out on the principle of Schiff's reaction, by which the urea gives a purple-red in the presence of hydrochloric acid and furfural. Nakasima has devised a method that consists in the application of stannous chlorid to make the reaction so delicate and gradual that a small variation in the urea content of the test material can be recognized through the nuance of the reaction. This reaction is specific to urea nitrogen. Nothing else in the residual nitrogen of the blood gives the same reaction except allantoin, which gives a similar one; but the reaction is slower and its color is darker. Moreover, the allantoin content of the blood is generally so small that it may almost in every case be disregarded. Therefore, this reaction is said to be first and foremost an ideal method for the determination of urea, because it is, so to speak, the direct method, while all other methods heretofore used have been indirect. One more advantage of the method lies in the fact that it can be carried out with a small quantity of the test material, and the technic is very simple. Kintaro Yanagi, Tokyo, Japan (Journal A. M. A., April 12, 1924) has perfected the method also for the purpose of clinical investigation, and has proved its delicacy and accuracy to be almost equal to those of the urease method. The possible error with this method is at the most 2.45 mg. per hundred cubic centimeters, which is also unavoidable with the urease method.

**Simplicity of Technic**—George de Tarnowsky, Chicago (Journal A. M. A.), pleads that operating-room ceremonial is in need of readjustment. Nurses and interns—and some surgeons—are obsessed with the belief that the preparation of the field of operation, carried out with a ritual that makes a Greek church high mass look simple by comparison, will in some mysterious way prevent post-operative shock and intestinal paresis. In the observance of this ritual there is an enormous wastage of towels, sheets, suture material and solutions. Gentleness in handling tissues is an art that needs more emphasis than it is, at present, given in our teaching and writing. Pre-operative starvation, purging and frightening are potent factors in the causation of post-operative shock, intestinal paresis and protracted convalescence. The simplest surgical technic, based on accurate anatomic knowledge of the issues involved, will give the best results.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Annual Reprint of the Reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for 1923.** Cloth. Price, postpaid, \$1. Pp. 72. Chicago: American Medical Association, 1923.

This volume contains the unabridged council reports that have been adopted and authorized for publication during 1923. Some of the reports, due to their technicality, have only been abstracted in The Journal; others have been published in entirety, and still others have never been published elsewhere.

In this volume the council sets forth the reasons that certain proprietary remedies were found unacceptable for New and Non-official Remedies, the reason why it has been deemed wise to omit certain hitherto accepted articles from the present, 1924, edition of New and Non-official Remedies, and the volume also contains certain preliminary reports on products that have therapeutic promise, but are as yet in the experimental stage. There is a long report on the widely advertised Fleischmann's Yeast, which was not found acceptable. Benetol, another article that has had much mention in the daily press, receives attention. There are reports on apiol and mercurial oil, which have been omitted from New and Non-official Remedies. In addition to these types, there are preliminary reports on bismuth in the treatment of syphilis, ethylene as an anesthetic, peptone in the treatment of migraine, and tryparsamid; and there are reports of such general interest as that on intravenous therapy and that on progress and conservatism in therapeutics.

For one who wishes to be cognizant, not only of what the council has done, but why it has done it, the book will be very valuable, for it supplements New and Non-official Remedies with a more detailed account of the activities of the council during 1923. New and Non-official Remedies records those proprietary remedies which have been accepted; council reports treat those which have been found unacceptable, and those which give promise of becoming valuable.

**New and Non-official Remedies, 1924**, containing description of articles which stand accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association on January 1, 1923. Cloth. Price, postpaid, \$1.50. Pp. 422+XXXIX. Chicago: American Medical Association, 1924.

Every physician is continually bombarded with literature, scientific and otherwise, concerning the newer remedies. He has neither the time nor the opportunity to investigate all even of the more promising preparations, and obviously he cannot try them upon his patients without investigation. He must know the composition of the article, must know that the claims under which it is marketed are true; in other words, he must have some critical statement of the actions, uses and dosage, as well as of the chemical and physical nature of the product.

This need of the physician is met in New and Non-official Remedies, which is the official publication through which the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry annually presents to the American medical profession disinterested, critical information about the proprietary preparations which the council deems worthy of recognition. In addition to the description of these proprietary preparations, the book treats those non-official remedies which, in the opinion of the council, are worthy of consideration.

As the book is designed for ready reference, each preparation is classified, and each classification is preceded by a general and critical discussion of that group. These articles are written by those who may

speak with authority on the separate subjects, and are a compilation of the best accepted opinions of today. Thus there is a general article on lactic acid-producing organisms in which the newly accepted bacillus acidophilus preparations are discussed in connection with other accepted sour or fermented milk preparations. The animal organ preparations, the biologic preparations, the arsenic preparations, and so on, are discussed in such a manner as to make the accepted facts concerning each group readily available.

A glance at the preface of the new volume will show that the book has been extensively revised. In fact, each new edition of New and Non-official Remedies is essentially a newly written book, fully indexed.

Physicians who wish to know why a given proprietary is not described in New and Non-official Remedies will find the References to Proprietary and Unofficial Articles not found in N. N. R. of much value. In this chapter (in the back of the book), there are references to published articles dealing with preparations which have not been accepted.

New and Non-official Remedies is a book that a physician who prescribes drugs cannot afford to be without. The book contains information about medicinal products which cannot be found in any other publication.

The book will be sent postpaid by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, on receipt of \$1.50.

**Diseases of the Rectum, Anus, and Colon.** By Samuel Goodwin Gant. Three volumes. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders, 1923.

Gant's work is in three volumes and includes, along with the usual subject matter, sections on the appendix, the ileo-colic angle, spina-bifida, backache, sciatica, skin affections of the perianal region and but-tocks and lupus vulgaris. This constitutes a new departure in a work of this kind and one the value of which is debatable. What is set down in the present volumes is largely the result of Gant's vast experience. This is probably the reason for the omission of a bibliography.

While always an advocate of the use of local anesthesia, Gant has so extended its indication as to cover fully 80 per cent of all his operations. This also includes laparotomies. He uses eucaine,  $\frac{1}{8}$  per cent plus adrenalin.

In former years, the author was an ardent advocate of the clamp and cautery operation for internal haemorrhoids. Gant's pile clamp is the best of its kind, but today he concludes that, for general practice, the ligature operation is the best.

Seven chapters treat very thoroughly of fistula; they constitute a veritable storehouse of information. Operation is the only treatment that has given him results. Beck's paste has been a disappointment.

The chapters on prolapse, stricture, ulceration, colitis, tumors, and constipation are all well handled. The treatment is largely surgical. The various operative procedures, many original with the author, are given in such detail, and with such profusion of illustration, that no one can have the least difficulty in following them. Appendicostomy is a favorite operation. Colostomy is resorted to only when unavoidable. Colectomy is advocated only in cases of extensive ulceration, stricture, or tumor formation.

The illustrations are so profuse as to almost border on the extravagant.

Gant has produced a book that is a mine of information, the result of rich and ripe experience, a book in which both the general practitioner and the specialist will find much that is of value. A. N.

**Fifty Years of Medical Progress, 1873-1922.** By H. Drinkwater, M. D. Illustrated. The MacMillan Company, 1924.

Doctor Drinkwater has rendered the cause of medicine a distinguished service in his painstaking efforts

to condense into one small volume the essential contributions to medical knowledge during the half century from 1873 to 1922. We believe most readers will regret the author's chronological method of presenting his facts.

We hope the author will now utilize his data for the preparation of a narrative story of the accomplishments of these fifty years for the general reader.

**The International Medical Annual: A Year-book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index.** By Many Contributors. Forty-second Year, 1924. New York: William Wood & Company.

For physicians who subscribe to and read a few good medical journals or who have available good medical library facilities and use them, we fail to see reasons for books of this class.

Undoubtedly, review books are useful for physicians in rural places who are denied the opportunities of libraries and of association with their fellows.

The editorial board of The Medical Annual contains the names of many men prominent in the various branches of medicine. They have taken their responsibilities seriously, and have produced one of the best of the annual reviews of the best in medical progress.

**A Text-book of Pharmacology and Therapeutics or the Action of Drugs in Health and Disease.** By Arthur R. Cushny, M. D. Illustrated. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1924. Price, \$6.

This splendid book has for years been accorded a rare and useful place among medical literature. We can pay it no higher compliment than to state that the publisher's complimentary copy is set aside for the editor's desk use.

**A Study of Masturbation and Its Reputed Sequelae.** By John F. W. Meagher, M. D. New York: William Wood & Company, 1924.

In this little book of sixty-three pages, Doctor Meagher supplies a useful compend of knowledge upon one of the frequently neglected, but nevertheless important, by-paths of medicine. Every physician, particularly those who serve children, should read this monograph.

#### **Case of Solitary Tuberculous Ulcer of the Lip—**

In December, 1922, while eating, the patient in the case cited by G. T. MacPherson and H. W. Gregg, Butte, Montana (Journal A. M. A.), bit his lip. Several days later, after the wound from the tooth had almost healed he noticed that it again broke down and this time showed no tendency to heal. In fact, it had become larger. The submaxillary and submental lymph glands were somewhat enlarged, but there was no generalized adenitis. There was no other ulceration about the mouth, tongue or throat. The dark field was negative for spirochetes, and the Wassermann test (Kolmer technic) was negative. The family and past history were not noteworthy until the last year. In this time the man had had frequent colds, a chronic cough, more persistent in the morning, shortness of breath, considerable expectoration of thick, yellow, tenacious sputum, occasional night sweats for the last five months, and a history of slight hemoptysis four months before admission. His appetite had been poor for the last eight months, and he became fatigued very easily, although he kept on working. In the absence of evidence of a syphilitic nature in the ulcer, it was felt that the diagnosis probably lay between an epithelioma and a tuberculous lesion, with the probabilities being in favor of the former, even considering the patient's age. A wedge-shaped section of the lower lip, including the ulcer, and with its lines well outside the ulcer edges, was removed. Microscopic examination led to the diagnosis of tuberculous ulcer. The most probable source of this ulcer was infection from the sputum developing in a sore made by the patient's biting the lip.